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des·ti·ny **1.** The inevitable or necessary fate to which a particular person or thing is destined; one's lot. **2.** A predetermined course of events considered as something beyond human power or control. **3.** The power or agency thought to predetermine events; fate.

free will *n.* **1.** The ability or discretion to choose; free choice. **2.** The power, attributed especially to human beings, of making free choices that are unconstrained by external circumstances or by an agency such as fate or divine will.

Predestination— (Calvinism) Eph.1: ⁴ For he **chose** us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

Does God's will always come to pass? Why? Why not?
(Armenianism)

2 Peter 3:9 He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to **repentance**.

Choices—

^{DT 30:15} See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. . This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

^{Josh 24:15} But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Search results for DESTINY on the internet...

1. Destiny International—meet Russian and Ukrainian women !
2. Secrets for mastering your destiny— business planning and goal setting for the new millennium
3. Destiny realty— find the retreat, cottage, chalets, or time share of your dream!
4. Dungeons of destiny—video game focusing on a bleak future for those who play
5. Hand of destiny— palm reading, dream interpretation, fortune telling, tarot cards, astrology, etc.
6. Destiny retreat—4 day seminar in Las Vegas including meditation tapes...

* The world has an answer for anyone who looks to them as the source. We know that Destiny is not found in worldly relationships, business success, property, fantasy, or demonic illusions.

CHOOSING YOUR FUTURE (Joyce Meyer)

1. Take ownership of your life / confront excuses
2. Release the things you can not change / stop feeling sorry for yourself
3. Stop complaining (nursing, rehearsing, dispersing)
job, family, spouse, car, etc.—replace feelings with what you know is truth—Phil.
2:14
4. Take responsibility for wrong choices / learning will reduce regrets, guilt, and shame
5. Choose wisdom over foolishness
6. Choose boldness over fear

pur·pose . **1.** The object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal. **2.** A result or an effect that is intended or desired; an intention. **3.** Determination; resolution. **4.** The matter at hand; the point at issue

The man who asks “What?” will always be the servant of the man who asks “Why?”
(Only then will you know purpose)

ISA 1:11 "The multitude of your sacrifices-- what are they to me?" (WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE ? KJV) says the LORD.

"I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

RO 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his **purpose.**

Exod.9:15 For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. ¹⁶ But I have raised you up for this very **purpose,** that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

1 Chron 23:5 Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that **purpose.**"

JOB 36:5 "God is mighty,... and firm in his **purpose.**

PS 57:2 I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his **purpose** for me.

PS 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The LORD will fulfill **his purpose** for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever-- do not abandon the works of your hands.

PR 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's **purpose** that prevails.

Isa.46:10— I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My **purpose** will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my **purpose.** What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

Jesus' purpose—

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

JN 12:27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very **reason** I came to this hour

JN 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this **reason** I was born, and for this I came into the world

1 Jn. 3:8- The **reason** the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

AC 13:36 "For when David had served God's **purpose** in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers

GAL 4:17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous, provided the **purpose** is good,

Proverbs 20:5

The **purposes** of a man's heart are deep waters,
but a man of understanding draws them out.
LEAVING THE PAST BEHIND!

ISA 43:18 "Forget the former things; **do not dwell on the past.**
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

PS 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far has **he removed** our transgressions from us.

Phil 3:13 But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind** and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me

Consider these truths:

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1. Learn (get wisdom) from your successes and mistakes.
 2. Forgive yourself, you're not as perfect as you think!
 3. Don't worry about other peoples' opinions of your past

Josh. 1:2 "Moses my servant **is dead**. **Now then**, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites.

Joel Osteen, Pastor of Lakewood church in Houston, Tex., said that dwelling on your past will poison your future. His father had recently died after building up a church of over 13,000 members. Joel had only preached once before taking on the role of senior pastor unexpectedly. The past was a comfortable routine, I'm sure, but the future lay ahead, and he had to raise to the occasion.

PREPARATION

When building a house according to “Bob Villa”, we must do two things to ensure success:

1. Choose the right plan, don't make it up as you go!
2. Build a strong foundation

Most of us feel like we are meant to “free wheel it” through life, or just put life on cruise control and see where we end up! This is not good stewardship with our time and resources. We must have a plan! Then we must submit this plan to God. He can only steer a moving car. Many people stay parked and wonder why God isn't doing anything!

With the parable of the talents, the one rebuked was the one who did nothing. He was motivated by fear. He probably asked these kind of questions: “Where should I invest”, “What if I fail”, and he never got the answers. If you are waiting for a fool proof plan with no risk, give it up! Start preparing for what you believe God wants for your future before you have all the answers. He will reveal himself to those who thrust themselves into life by faith.

Consider those who made preparations in scripture:

1. The 5 wise virgins who waited on the bridegroom.
2. The disciples made preparations before the last supper
3. Noah prepared a boat for over 100 years
4. David prepared the plan for Solomon to build the temple
5. God gave Moses a detailed plan for the tabernacle
6. Joseph saved a nation by giving Pharaoh a plan to avoid famine
7. Jesus is preparing a place for us!
8. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus

How to follow Gods plan:

1. Be decisive— Joshua said, choose you this day.
Elijah said, how long will you halt between two decisions?
2. Be focused— prioritize and learn to say no to lesser important things. “Jesus set his face like a flint toward Jerusalem”
3. Don't be afraid to fail—Gideon hid in a winepress
4. Write them down—Habakkuk 2 says to write down the vision
(this will hold you accountable to progress)

The Question everyone asks is usually this...

“What is God's will for **MY** life?”

What we should ask is this...”What is GOD'S will? And is my life measuring up?”

This takes the emphasis off of us and puts the focus on God.

We must be conformed to Him! He knows best, He knows what we need. We only see what we want. He knows what we can handle, and He is looking out for our best interest.

He has a general will for everyone,

Here's what we know for sure:

1. Salvation— relationship with Him
Bible Study, Prayer, Church
2. Healing— restored to wholeness, mind, body, and spirit
3. Blessing— “that you should prosper and be in health”
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Rom. 12:2 ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what **God's will** is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

¹TH 5:16 Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is **God's will** for you in Christ Jesus.

¹TH 4:3 **It is God's will** that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

¹PE 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is **God's will** that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

Does He have a specific will and a personal plan for us?

One of the most powerful statements made by Jesus was while he was in agony, without the support of his closest friends . His humanity was torn as he prayed, “not my will, but yours be done”. When we ask for specific information from God, how will we respond?

1. Should I marry this person?
2. Is this the right Job or career?
3. Should we rent or buy, and which house?
4. Is today the day or should we wait?
5. Are my friends giving me Godly counsel and advice?

^{EX 18:15} Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek **God's will**.

²⁰ When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. ²¹ But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is **God's will.**"

^{RO 8:26} In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with **God's will**.

¹PE 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to **God's will** should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

^{JAS 4:13} Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we **will** go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what **will** happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's **will**, we **will** live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

1 Jn. 4:¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Marshall Billingslea

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OBEDIENCE

Obedience - to carry out or fulfill the command, order, or instruction of another. To follow, comply, keep, conform, yield, and submit our behavior.

DT 6:3 "Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

DT 11:26 See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse-- [27] the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; [28] the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today

ISA 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' [23] Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

MT 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. [26] But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Jn. 9: ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who **does his will**.

JN 14:15 "If you love me, you **will obey** what I command.

JN 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

Many people are asking God for some great revelation for their future. They want a sign from heaven, or an audible voice. These same people are not reading the Bible, which is His word and His will!

Not only must we read it, but we must apply it and obey it. We must quit making excuses or telling ourselves that "this reference" doesn't apply to me, or my life. His word is fresh, alive, and relevant. We must only trust and obey!

James 4:¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

SETTING GOALS :

1. What are the benefits of setting goals?
 2. What are the consequences of not setting them?
 3. Who should I involve in setting goals?
 4. Are my goals realistic or attainable?
 5. How do I re-evaluate when I miss the goal?
 6. Do I have daily "to do" lists
 7. Do I set priorities?
 8. Do I procrastinate?
 9. Can I tell myself and others "NO" ?
 10. Do I reward myself when I reach my goals?
-

Short term goals - 30 days

1. Financially
2. personally
3. Work
4. Family
5. Spiritually

Mid—term goals 6monthes:

Long term- 1 yr / 5 yr

GODS PLANS / OUR PLANS...

1. He has a plan for Salvation
2. He has a plan for the future (Eschatology)
3. He has a plan for you

Jer. 29:11 For I know the **plans** I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

PS 20:4 May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your **plans** succeed.

PS 33:10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the **plans** of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

PR 16:1 To man belong the **plans** of the heart,
but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.
All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your **plans** will succeed.

PR 16:9 In his heart a man **plans** his course,
but the LORD determines his steps.

LK 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

SEEKING and WAITING

Many times there are specific plans we need to inquire about with the Lord. To seek Him is to request, search, and discover. In times past, men used stones of chance, dew on a fleece, and cast lots. Others consulted mediums or evil spirits which God forbid. Today people seek for answers about the future through tarot cards, ouija boards, palm readers, and psychic hot lines. We need only ask, seek and knock. The Holy Spirit abides in believers as the comforter and counselor who reveals God's will.

Matt. 6:³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

JDG 18:5 Then they said to him, "Please **inquire** of God to learn whether our journey will be successful."

John 14:²⁶ But the **Counselor**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things

To wait is to be attentive for service, like the waiter at a restaurant. He does not sit and do nothing, rather he serves in anticipation for the next order. One who waits on God only rests in expectation, while remaining in a state of readiness.

Acts 1:⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait** for the gift my Father promised,

ISA 40:31 but those **who wait** on the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

PS 130:6 My soul **waits** for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
Gal. 6⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Many times God says no to our questions. Other times He says, "Not now". Our human nature is to persist or manipulate the circumstances to make things appear favorable. This only clouds our senses from being able to hear.

Walking it out!

The Process and Principles for knowing and doing the WILL of God.

Taken from the workbook titled "Experiencing God" (Lifeway press)

1. Separate yourself from the world
2. Read and study the Bible daily
3. Turn your back on sin
4. Fellowship with other Christians
5. Attend church faithfully
6. Recognize what God is doing
7. Join Gods work (be a servant)
8. Submit to spiritual leadership
9. Talk to God and let him talk to you
10. Always put relationship ahead of accomplishment

Consider the cycle of walking in Gods will:

ISOLATION—

^{MKT.35} Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place**, where he prayed.

SEPARATION—

^{2CO 6:17} "Therefore come out from them and be **separate**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

MODERATION—

^{ECC 7:18} It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all **extremes**.

LIBERATION—

2 Cor.3¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**. (liberty)

INTEGRATION—

Luke 14:23 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'.. **Go out into** the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

PRODUCTIVITY

Many Christians who claim to be searching for Gods will in some area are setting idle. They use a seemingly spiritual justification by saying that they are **waiting** on God. I believe that more often than not, He is waiting on us!

He can only steer a moving vehicle, not a parked car.

He will open doors but it's up to us to go through them.

John 15:2

“ He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

John 9:⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

Rom. 12:11 (KJV) don't be slothful in business
(NKJV) not lagging in diligence

We must be productive with what we know is his will. For example:

1. Some people don't go to church because they're not sure which one is right for them.
2. Others don't read the Bible because they don't understand King James English.
3. Some aren't employed because they're waiting on the “right” job.

NEWS FLASH... it **IS** God's will for you to go to church, read the Bible and make a living for yourself!

* Wise parents do not give their children new toys if they don't take care of the ones they have. Christians won't get additional revelation if they're not applying the truth they already know..

HEARING HIS VOICE

1 Sam. 3:6-10

“ . . . Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, `Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Led by the Spirit & Heard His voice

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|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Exodus 3:4 | Moses |
| 2. Judges 18:5 | Levite Priest |
| 3. 1 Samuel 23:1-12 | David |
| 4. Jeremiah 29:12 | those in exile |
| 5. Matthew 4:1 | Jesus |
| 6. John 16:13 | believers |
| 7. Acts 10:9-19 | Peter |
| 8. Acts 16:6-10 | Paul |

Isa. 30:²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will **hear** a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 42:20 “You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you **hear** nothing.”

Revelation 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him **hear** . . . “

Discuss the difference between logos (written) and Rhema (spoken) word of God. . .

Hearing but not obeying

1. Isaiah 58:2-9
2. Jeremiah 42:2-43:4

Main causes for not hearing:

1. Too busy, too distracted with life
2. Preconceived notions about the mind of God

SECURING THE VISION!

A vision is much broader than a specific word or revelation of truth. It is the light at the end of the tunnel, or the motivation to keep going. Someone with a vision is more than a dreamer. A vision is a dream with a blueprint. Faith without works is dead, and a vision requires personal sweat!

Getting a Vision means to see things from Gods perspective. It is to have an acute sense of the possible, when others think it's impossible. P.Y.Cho (Pastor of the worlds largest church in Soul Korea) says that vision is to be impregnated by the Holy Spirit, something He will give birth to !

We must have a vision OF God before we seek to get something from Him:

Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up

John saw 24 thrones in heaven

Paul said he was obedient to the vision...

Prov. 29:18—says without a vision, people perish

Habakkuk said to write down the vision so the people could see it plainly.

“The Death of a Vision” David Wilkerson, author of *The cross and the switchblade*, says that God often gives us a vision of something in the future, then He kills the vision. He does this right before he fulfills the vision. It happens for 2 reasons:

1. So we won't take the credit
2. So we stay dependant on Him

Consider Abraham and Sarah giving birth to a son, or David being anointed as King

Procrastination

To put off doing something, especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness. To postpone or delay needlessly.

Many people miss God's timing because they treat his plan carelessly. When He opens a door, He also gives us a window of opportunity. This window may close and not be open at our convenience. We have then squandered the chance to fulfill His will, and may not get this opportunity again.

2 Corinthians 6:2 - now is the time, today is the day

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 A time for everything

Eph 5:16 - make the most of every opportunity

Colossians 4:5 - Redeem the Time

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Our time is short

Ecclesiastes 10:18 Idleness leads to ruin

Matthew 12:36 Judgment of the Idle

Luke 9:51 - Jesus resolutely set out on his mission.